

Toronto Food Strategy



Cultivating Food Connections:

**Toward a Healthy
and Sustainable
Food System
for Toronto**

May 2010

Goal of Toronto Food Strategy

- Vision and action toward health-focused food system
- Identify ways that City can help build a healthier and more sustainable food system



Food is Big Part of City's Business

- Toronto can have even more impact if it identifies and leverages food initiatives to meet existing City goals



Soil safety information

Fosters farm to school links

Green Bin composting

School food gardens

Co-funds school meals for 122,870 students daily

Promotes breastfeeding

Food Security grants

Community kitchens

Runs nutrition education programs

Food handler certification

Supports growth of food processors

Buy's food for City services from local farms

LOCAL FOOD CAFE

P.O.R. SUPERMARKET

FOODMART

SCHOOL

LIBRARY

COMMUNITY CENTRE

ANNE'S DINER

BOB'S F&V

PROMOTES SAFE FOOD HANDLING AT HOME

MEALS FOR 7,000 PEOPLE/DAY IN SENIORS' HOMES, SHELTERS & CHILDCARE

LICENSES FOOD SALES

INSPECTS 16,000 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS ANNUALLY

FOOD FESTIVALS & EVENTS

STAFFS THE TORONTO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

SPACE FOR FARMERS' MARKETS

ENABLES COMMUNITY GARDENS

PROVIDES 2,500 GARDEN ALLOTMENT SPACES

FUNDS FOOD ANIMATORS

PROMOTES HEALTHY EATING & NUTRITION INFORMATION

ZONING BYLAWS

TOMATOES

VEGETABLES

PIZZERIA

RESTAURANT

CAFE

MARKET

STREET VENDOR

TRUCK

TRAM

BOAT

BRIDGE

SKYLINE

SUN

CLOUDS

TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH

toronto.ca/foodconnections

- Released in Feb. 2010
- Identified six directions to a health-focused food system with examples of “ideas for action”



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A Consultation Report

February 2010

Consultation & Engagement

Key Stakeholders

- Residents
- Community organizations
- Industry
- Farmers
- City staff
- City Councillors



Methods

- In-person participation and discussion
- Toronto Food Policy Council facilitated discussions
- Community meetings
- Online discussion forum
- Digital storytelling
- Support to enable participation of underrepresented communities

Consultation & Engagement



Key Themes

- Affordability of healthy food
- Lack of access to quality food stores
- Needs of newcomers
- Concern about lack of basic food skills among children

Key Themes

- Interest in community-based food solutions
- Need for clearer information on City food policies
- Want governments to play a role in facilitating solutions



Cultivating Food Connections Report



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Cultivating Food Connections Report

Key Recommendation:

- City Manager to direct all City Divisions, and request Agencies, Boards and Commissions to identify and implement initiatives that support a healthy and sustainable food system



Priority Areas for Action



- Support food friendly neighbourhoods



- Make food a centerpiece of Toronto's green economy



Priority Areas for Action



➤ Eliminate hunger in Toronto



➤ Connect city and countryside through food

Priority Areas for Action



- Empower residents with food skills and information

A photograph of a restaurant menu. The menu is divided into sections: "Breakfast Sandwiches" on the left, "Calories meal" in the center, and "Platters" on the right. The "Breakfast Sandwiches" section lists items like "Egg Sandwich", "Egg Sandwich with Egg", "Egg & Cheese Biscuit", "Egg Sandwich with Egg", "Egg & Cheese Biscuit", "Egg & Cheese Biscuit", "Egg & Cheese Biscuit", and "Egg & Cheese Biscuit". The "Calories meal" column lists corresponding calorie counts: 300, 450, 600, 580, 660, 560, and 570. The "Platters" section lists items like "Hot Cakes", "Hot Cakes", "Big Breakfast", "Deluxe Breakfast", and "Breakfast".

| Breakfast Sandwiches | Calories meal | Platters |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Egg Sandwich | 300 | Hot Cakes |
| Egg Sandwich with Egg | 450 | Hot Cakes |
| Egg & Cheese Biscuit | 600 | Big Breakfast |
| Egg Sandwich with Egg | 580 | Deluxe Breakfast |
| Egg & Cheese Biscuit | 660 | Breakfast |
| Egg & Cheese Biscuit | 560 | |
| Egg & Cheese Biscuit | 570 | |



- Urge federal & provincial governments to establish health-focused food policies

Implementation

- TPH staff will initially coordinate implementation
- Will develop evaluation framework
- Medical Officer of Health will report to the Board of Health and City Council on progress in early 2011